

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Hovey: Transportation Bill Funds Mass Transit, Highway Upgrades that Help 112th District Commuters



Mass transit and highway improvements funded by Governor M. Jodi Rell's transportation initiative will ease congestion and make the daily commute to work safer and easier for Monroe and Newtown residents, state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112th District said after attending a ceremonial signing of the bill (Senate Bill 2000) Thursday, July 7th at the Metro-North train

station in South Norwalk.

"Most of my Monroe and Newtown constituents commute to work and have had to endure traffic congestion and poorly-maintained Metro North railcars for years," Representative Hovey said. "Governor Rell said at the beginning of the 2005 legislative session that she would fight for comprehensive legislation to resolve long-standing transportation problems in Fairfield County and she kept her word."

"The commuter rail service improvements this legislation will make possible over the next few years will give people an added incentive to take the train to work - and help reduce congestion on I-84 and I-95," Representative Hovey said. "We also need to encourage more people who commute by train to carpool to railroad stations; to restrict truck traffic on interstate highways in Fairfield County to the far right lane; and, if feasible, establish a commuter lane on I-95 for vehicles carrying two or more people. I look forward to working with Governor Rell to achieve those goals."

The \$1.3 billion transportation bill, which was approved in a special legislative session June 28th, includes funding for rail cars, buses and highway improvements.

The measure provides:

- \$667 million for new rail cars on Metro-North's New Haven Line – among the busiest rail lines in the country with more than 33 million riders every year
- \$300 million for new rail maintenance facilities
- \$187 million for "congestion mitigation" measures on Interstate 95 from Greenwich to North Stonington
- \$150 million for improvements to I-84 and I-91, as well as other state roads and highways
- \$7.5 million for new transit buses.

Also participating in the ceremonies with Governor Rell were Transportation Commissioner Stephen E. Korta and several Fairfield County legislators.



State Representative DebraLee Hovey (standing, third from left) and other area legislators look on as Governor M. Jodi Rell signs a comprehensive transportation bill that will provide funding to buy new railcars for Metro North and pay for other mass transit and highway improvements in Fairfield County. The bill signing ceremony took place July 7th at the Metro North railway station in South Norwalk.